

February 7, 1975

Mahoney, the older members who may have been defeated in the election or who decided not to run again, what part do they play in this December meeting? Always our term . . . term of office terminated at the end of the eleven months . . . I know many states are in this but I'm wondering what is the procedure there?

SENATOR MAHONEY: On the second Monday of December the old members are no longer members of the Legislature and the new members that are coming in are sworn in that day and everything takes its course. It's the end of . . . the end of the term of office is the second Monday in December, so you're just moving it up one month.

SENATOR BURBACH: This created quite a responsibility on new members to accept interim study reports that soon. Right after an election . . . wouldn't have had time to check them out and so forth. It's true they'd have more time in January.

SENATOR MAHONEY: I think when you get through with a campaign in Nebraska you have discussed every issue that an interim study committee does during the long Fall and Summer. I'm sure that the new senators are very eager beavers and they do their work well. I don't remember any great momentum bill, Senator Burbach, that a bright young new senator that comes in, like the last class we had, wouldn't be able to cope with this and handle it within a matter of two weeks.

SENATOR BURBACH: Is this the procedure in other states that are doing this?

SENATOR MAHONEY: Yes. Indiana, Pennsylvania, their terms end the second Tuesday or second Wednesday. The old senators . . . that's the end of their term. This legislative council meeting we have is just kind of a way for the old senators to say goodbye and the new senators to come aboard. I don't know how many of you really, that day, took your books with you and studied that hard. They are available and we usually prepare for them all Fall and Summer.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker. It occurs to me that we may be shortchanging some possible future members of this Legislature. There are students, and when I say students I don't necessarily mean 18, 19 year olds. I could name a woman who has gone back to school who would choose to run for the Legislature. A young man who was working on his graduate degree who would choose to run for the Legislature, who would be able to complete a full semester of school in the Fall, before taking office in January to serve in the Legislature. The first week in December would be about the worst possible time to begin the legislative session, because that's the last week before final exams. Having been an adult student, having returned to the University of Nebraska after our children were grown, I can see that there would be many individuals who could continue with their education with a full semester in the Fall, who would be forced to withdraw from possibility of even serving in this body. Perhaps we would have some instructors in this legislative body who could